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1 representation in the United States congress or give them the
2 right to vote for the president of the United States; and

3 WHEREAS, since 1917, more than two hundred thousand United
4 States citizens from Puerto Rico have served valiantly in every
5 war and armed conflict in which our nation has fought in
6 defense of American democratic principles and self-
7 determination; and

8 WHEREAS, four heroic Puerto Ricans, Hector Santiago-Colon,
9 Euripides Rubio, Carlos James Lozada and Louis Fernando Garcia,
10 have been awarded the congressional medal of honor for their
11 valor in defending American democracy and freedoms; and

12 WHEREAS, the territory of New Mexico was also acquired by
13 the United States as a result of armed conflict, and New
14 Mexicans endured eighty-four years as a territory before
15 realizing their aspirations for permanent political status; and

16 WHEREAS, New Mexico's great history, including its
17 ascension to statehood, is intertwined with our state's
18 Hispanic heritage; and

19 WHEREAS, in 1997, the legislature of Puerto Rico formally
20 petitioned the United States congress to respond to the
21 democratic aspirations of the United States citizens of Puerto
22 Rico by means of a federally sanctioned plebiscite to be held
23 no later than 1998, and congress has not yet responded to this
24 petition; and

25 WHEREAS, as a new millennium begins, the time has come for

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1 Puerto Rico to exercise its right to self-determination
2 regarding its desire to attain full self-government within the
3 context of a congressionally authorized plebiscite; and

4 WHEREAS, the New Mexico senate and house of
5 representatives urge all New Mexicans and citizens of the
6 United States to support the enactment of a federal law leading
7 to full self-government for Puerto Rico;

8 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
9 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that congress be requested to enact and the
10 president be requested to sign legislation that would define
11 the political status options available to the United States
12 citizens of Puerto Rico and authorize a plebiscite to provide
13 an opportunity for Puerto Ricans to make an informed decision
14 regarding their future political status; and

15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the New Mexico congressional
16 delegation be requested to actively promote and support timely
17 action on this important national issue; and

18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
19 transmitted to the president and vice-president of the United
20 States, the speaker of the United States house of
21 representatives, the majority leader of the United States
22 senate, the chairman of the United States senate energy and
23 natural resources committee, the chairman of the United States
24 house of representatives resources committee and the members of
25 the New Mexico congressional delegation.

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